



Bees and Honey

Honey production from Louisiana producers with five or more colonies during 2000 totaled 4.04 million pounds, which is 26 percent lower than the 1999 level. Producers harvested honey from 43,000 colonies, and each colony averaged 94 pounds of honey.

Prices from the 2000 honey crop averaged \$0.52 per pound, which was up \$0.03 from 1999. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Louisiana producers had 1,334,000 pounds of honey in stock on December 15, 2000, compared with 821,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

Number of Colonies, Production, Stocks, and Value: Louisiana, 1997-2000

Year	Number of Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 th	Average Price per Pound	Value of Production
	---1,000---	---Pounds---	-----1,000 Pounds-----		---Cents---	---\$1,000---
1997	44	115	5,060	759	70.0	3,542
1998	41	111	4,551	865	59.0	2,685
1999	48	114	5,472	821	49.0	2,681
2000	43	94	4,042	1,334	52.0	2,102



Catfish

Louisiana ranks fourth in the nation in catfish production, number of operations, water surface acres, and total sales of catfish. Mississippi leads the nation in catfish production, followed by Arkansas and Alabama.

There were 80 commercial catfish operations in our state on January 1, 2001, down 14 operations from 2000. Water acres used by these operations amounted to 13,300, down 200 acres from 2000.

Total sales of catfish in Louisiana for the year 2000 was \$33.0 million, up 2 percent from 1999. Roughly 96 percent of this amount or \$31.7 million was from sales of foodsize catfish. Farmers sold 44.0 million pounds of foodsize catfish in 2000 compared to 44.4 million pounds in 1999. This was at an average of 72 cents per pound, unchanged from 1999.

The table at the bottom of the opposite page contains district estimates of catfish data obtained from the January 1, 2001, Catfish Grower's Survey. This survey is conducted every January, and a similar survey is conducted every July.